Bengal has been reported to have come to a breaking point;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar situation has been reported in other States and Union Territories during the second half of 1996 and first quarter of 1997;

(d) whether Government propose to discontinue the Public Distribution System under such circumstances; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Including NCCF in the list of cooperative institutions**

3679. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have included the National Consumers Cooperative Federation (NCCF) in the list of cooperative institutions that were making supplies of stationery and other items to the Government departments;

(b) whether the NCCF was required to draw up a list of items on its inventory together with sale price shown against each item and to forward the same to all the Government departments;

(c) if so, whether NCCF has drawn such a list with sale price; and

(d) whether NCCF is indicating the specifications of the items on its bills/ invoices to Government departments as is done by the Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, the prices are quoted to Government Departments against specific enquiries. The NCCF is however maintaining price-list of standard items being handled by them, in their branches.

(d) The NCCF has informed that they are indicating the specification of the items on the bills and invoices to the Government Departments in most of the cases.

**Bringing medical practitioners under the purview of Consumers (Protection) Act**

3680. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government have studied, in depth, the implications of the recent Supreme Court judgment bringing medical practitioners under the purview of the Consumers (Protection) Act;

(b) whether the matter has been further discussed with the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the measures proposed to be undertaken to ensure compliance of the Supreme Court Judgment?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) In the judgment given on the Civil Appeal No. 688 of 1993, between Indian Medical Association versus V.P. Shantha & others the Supreme Court clarified that the medical profession was already covered

under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) Do no arise.

**Revival of Prof. Lakadawala Committee on PDS**

3681. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the revival of the Prof. Lakadawala Committee on Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for the revival of the said Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Government of India have not appointed any Committee under the name "Prof. Lakadawala Committee on Public Distribution System". Hence the question of its revival does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Increasing demand of consumer food items in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh**

3682. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the demand of consumer goods viz. wheat, sugar and edible oil by the consumers of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, particularly of tribal and desert areas;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the allocation of wheat, rice, sugar to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the projection made for 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard, so far, including margin of subsidy on foodgrains per quintal for tribal areas, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Allocation of essential commodities under Public Distribution System (PDS) from Central Pool is made on a month to month basis after taking into account the availability of stock in the Central Pool, inter se demand of States/UTs, market availability of commodities, seasonal factors, offtake against allocations, etc. However, with effect from June, 1997, quota of rice and wheat is allocated on the basis of annual average lifting for 10 years as per Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) guidelines. The allocation of levy sugar is made at a uniform rate of 425 grams per capita per month as per 1991 population. Allocation of these commodities is made to the States as a whole. Further District-wise allocation within the State as per local demand is the responsbility of the State Government.

(c) The allocation of wheat, rice, sugar and edible oil and lifting thereof, itemwise, for the year 1996-97 by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh is as under:—

(in '000 MTs)

| | GUJARAT | | MADHYA PRADESH | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alloca-tion | Lifting | Alloca-tion | Lifting |
| Wheat | 690.90 | 624.30 | 605.62 | 431.10 |
| Rice | 376.00 | 276.40 | 613.68 | 278.50 |
| Sugar | 213.76 | * | 353.50 | * |
| Edible Oil | 40.00 | 41.33 | @ | @ |

*Lifting assumed to be 100%

@No demand for edible oil for the year 1996-97 was received from Madhya Pradesh.